457 [167] prate sections. Most of the difficulties in this connection has arisen from the lack of adequate information. Thus there are in Lebanon about 20,000 foreigners, and for many of them it has been impossible to ascertain whether or not they should be considered as 'residents'. Again, many Lebanese nationals live and work in neighbouring countries without being registered as permanent residents there. According to the adopted criterion, their expenditure on a trip to Lebanon should be entered as a credit; there has been no way, however, of isolating that item.

1 Receipts from foreign travel

Receipts from foreign travel (i.e., its credit side) have been divided into the following categories (1) summer resorting, (2) schools, (3) hospitals and (4) tourism, including business.

(1) **Summer resorting.** In most countries, summer resorting (or *estivage*) is part of general tourism, and earnings from it are not isolated. In Lebanon, such an isolation was deemed necessary, for the following reasons:-

•529 i) *Estivage* in Lebanon is a clearly defined and separate industry and is so recognized by the Government. It is generally taken to mean the spending of the summer months in the fifty-odd mountain resorts which dot the Lebanese landscape. Although most of these resorts are inhabitated all year round, their population swells up as much as ten to fifteen times during July, August and September of every year. Some resorts are even completely abandoned during the winter months and come to life only in the hot season. During this season, all residential houses and often times schools and other institutions are rented out to the incoming *estiveurs*. Most of the *estiveurs* are from the Lebanese coastal cities, but quite a substantial number come from the neighbouring countries in the Middle East. The Lebanese Government (through its Commissariat of Tourism) is known to have always been anxious to promote *estivage* and to attract as many foreigners as possible during the summer season. In 1951 and 1952 for example, it stood ready to pay part or all of the return passage of all

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estiveurs coming from Arab countries [1]. Foreign estiveurs naturally differ from the ordinary tourists who stay a few days only in the country, and spend most of their time in travel, with Beirut as the jumping off place to Damascus or Jerusalem. The *estiveurs'* stay, on the other hand, ranges all the way from a week or two at a hotel to three months in a rented villa. Often guests repeat year after year, returning to the same place, almost, as it where, like to a summer home.

ii) Whilst it was possible to isolate the summer resort industry, the remaining forms of foreign travel (except expenditures for schools and hospitals) could not be separately indentified because the needed information was not obtainable from the Commissariat of Tourism or the *Sûreté Générale*. Thus the word "Tourism" is used in this study as a catchall for the various not-otherwise mentioned foreign travel expenditures, with no breakdown as to travel for business, pleasure, etc.

In view of its importance, it was decided to undertake a separate independent survey of the *estivage* industry especially since there was no reliable official data on which to base even an approximate estimate. Although the present study encompasses 1951 and 1952 only, it was felt that the survey should cover the 1953 summer months, and be made while the season was in progress. In this way there would be as little reliance as possible on people's memories; the data requested would be current and available, and direct inquiries and, when needed, cross checking would be possible. The 1953 results could then serve as a basis for estimating returns for the two previous years.

For this purpose, two complementary surveys were conducted, both beginning in June 1953 and continuing through the succeeding five months. Permission for the surveys were obtained from the ministries concerned, which also cooperated in the collection of information. Most of the communications or questionnaires were sent out in the name of the bureau directly concerned

1 The Government reimbursed 30 o/o of the return passage for a stay of 12 consecutive days, 40 o/o for 20 days, 60 o/o for 45 days and 100 o/o for 60 days. The scheme cost the Government LL. 1.9 million in 1951 and LL. 1.5 million in 1952. Another LL. 150,000 was also spent annually on *estivage* promotion, mainly in the form of propaganda and advertising in Egypt and Iraq.

529 with the subject at hand. A list of the major summer resorts was compiled, including 45 centres.

a. The first survey dealt with the expenditures of foreign *estiveurs* living in private rented houses. It was found that most municipalities did not keep adequate records of these *estiveurs*. Whereas visitors to hotels were required by the *Sûreté Générale* to fill forms asking for the nationality, permanent residence, intended stay, dates of arrival and departure, places of provenance and destination, no similar information was required from *estiveurs* in private houses. It was decided, therefore, to interview the foreign visitors themselves. The officials who collected municipal dues were then asked to indicate all houses which they thought were occupied by foreigners. Since they had to rely on their memories and notebooks, it was found that this procedure was defective. At last, the services of the grocers were enrolled. They knew, more than any one else, which houses were occupied by non-Lebanese. For interviewing, about 20 A.U.B. students were used, who themselves were *estiveing* in the various resort towns. Many of them knew their locality quite well, and had intimate knowledge of, and maintained friendly relations with the persons contacted

529 1457 On the basis of this survey, it was found that 475 foreign (non-resident) families, totalling 2833 persons, spent the summer in private houses in 1953; rentals varied in extremes from small two-room units, unfurnished and with a minimum of utilities, at about LL. 400 per season, to large villas at LL. 20,000. Total expenditures of these families were estimated at about LL. 5.5 million (cf. Tables 17 and 18).

529b. The second survey dealt with expenditures of foreign *estiveurs* in hotels, inns and other public housing units. A total of 209 hotels were selected in the various resort towns, and questionnaires sent to them, requesting information for 1953 [1]. Reminders to answer were also sent later on. Moreover, although detailed written instructions were attached to the questionnaires, it was often found necessary to make additional oral explanations. This was made in frequent visits especially to the hotels known to cater especially to

1 The questionnaire form is appended (Appendix 1)

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foreign visitors. These visits also served for gathering information concerning the visitors' expenses outside the hotels, i.e., local transportation, entertainment, gifts etc.[1] Actually only 101 hotels answered the questionnaire. This, however, represents a fairly good portion of total business as 80 to 90 % of the hotels in the main summer resorts responded. Those which did not answer were mainly in the northern districts and in the relatively less important centers of Kesrwan. The results obtained from the returned forms have been raised proportionately to cover all hotels. On the basis of these figures and of the personal interviews, the number of *estiveurs* in hotels in 1953 was estimated at 16,412, their total expenditure being LL. 3.8 million (cf. Table 19).

From (a) and (b), it can be seen that the total number of foreign *estiveurs* in 1953 was about 19,245 and that total expenditures of those *estiveurs* were LL. 9.3 million, i.e., about LL. 500 per person.[2] On the basis of the Commissariat of Tourism's estimate of the number of foreign *estiveurs* in 1951 and 1952 (respectively, 24,000 and 21,237) and assuming the same level of expenditures as in 1953, an extention of the figures obtained for 1953 would show total earnings from foreign *estivage* of LL. 12.2 million in 1951 and LL. 10.8 million in 1952. From these figures should be deducted LL. 1.9 million and LL. 1.5 million respectively which represent the part of the *estiveurs'* travel expenses reimbursed by the Government (cf. footnote, p. 23). Thus net earnings from summer resorting stood at LL. 10.3 million in 1951 and LL. 9.3 million in 1952.

(2) **Schools.** From a compilation of educational institutions in Lebanon, a list of 25 universities and schools which were known to have foreign (non-resident) students was drawn

1 The hotel managers were usually very useful in the collection of such information; better than anyone they could estimate their clients' expenses outside the hotel as very often they know how much money their clients had; most tourists exchange at the hotel their own money into local currency.

2 According to the Commissariat of Tourism, the number of *estiveurs* in 1953 was 16,868; the discrepancy between this figure and that arrived at in the above surveys is probably due to the fact that the former covers only the *estiveurs* who arrived in the country between July 1 and October 30 whereas the latter comprises those who were in Lebanon during that three-month period; some of them may have arrived in June. Moreover, there was certainly some double counting in this survey figure, as some tourists may have stayed at more than one hotel and so were recorded more than once.

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Table 17

Summer Resorting in Private Houses
Summer 1953

Country of Residence	No. of Houses Rented	No. of Persons			Total Expenditure in LL. 1,000	Average Expenditure per person in LL.
		Adults	Children	Total		
Egypt	57	195	160	355	271	765
Iraq	127	435	306	741	1,015	1370
Kuweit	38	228	103	331	1,556	4699
Bahrein	3	5	10	15	13	866
Saudi Arabia	91	257	137	394	1,260	3198
Syria	97	387	253	640	357	558
Transjordan : Palestine	9	39	39	78	110	1410
Qatar & Oman	5	41	13	54	188	3474
West Africa	13	112	73	185	740	4000
Others	37	24	16	40	39	966
TOTAL	475	1723	1110	2833	5,549	1959

Source: Information privately secured

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Table 18

Summer Resorting in Private Houses
Summer 1953

Estivage Centre	No. of Persons		No. of Houses	Expenditure in LL. 1,000
	Adults	Children		
Ain Zhalta	45	20	9	23
Aley	280	130	70	2210
Bashloun	22	14	15	25
Bhamdoun (station)	176	134	44	577
Bhamdoun (village)	119	70	20	227
Bechouro	35	25	8	50
Beit Mery	63	57	21	190
Bhasef	20	32	7	22
Bikfaya	58	76	16	58
Brummana	49	54	23	119
Dhour Chweir	76	33	17	216
Ehden	43	21	10	103
Faloughe	201	82	48	429
Feytroun	24	15	9	15
Hadath el Jebbeh	16	28	5	11
Hasroun	9	9	4	8
Hammana	287	155	70	444
Jeviah	21	11	10	432
Kennayel	46	28	11	30
Maisalun	13	2	3	4
Mrouj	15	7	3	20
Reyfoun	19	21	7	11
Souk el Gharb	68	31	12	185
Sofar	49	25	15	73
TOTAL	1773	1110	475	5550

Source; Information privately secured.

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Table 19

Expenditure of Summer Resorters in Hotels
1953

Countries	Persons	Expenditure in L.L. 1,000
Egy	3644	1155
Iraq	3189	903
Jordan	1228	169
Bahrein	318	121
Kuwait	458	156
Qatar	61	25
Saudi Arabia	714	233
Syria	5494	775
Others	1306	258
TOTAL	16412	3795

Source: Information privately secured.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
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Chapter Ten

SYRIA AND LEBANON

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

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THE area of the present Syria and Lebanon lies to the north of Arabia Deserta and is the western horn of the Fertile Crescent. The two republics do not enclose within their boundaries a natural geographic entity and their climate and topography are best studied in relation to the surrounding countries;[1] but within the political boundaries of the two states, the following geographical divisions may roughly be distinguished:

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(1) *The Coastal Strip.* This is about twenty miles wide near Latakia and rather less just north of Tripoli, but in some places disappears and the mountains meet the sea. Olives, bananas, citrus, and vegetables are cultivated intensively near Beirut.

(2) *The Mountains.* Starting from the north, the first coastal mountains are the Jebel Ansariya (also known as the Alawi Mountains) which average 4,000 feet and are well populated on the western slopes. To the south is the Homs–Tripoli gap and then starts the Lebanon range with peaks of over 10,000 feet. Even on the upper slopes of this range water is plentiful, there is close cultivation, and the villages and towns are prosperous. Near Beirut are situated the mountain resorts to which most of the city workers move each night when the summer brings its humid heat. The interior ranges of mountains lying parallel to that of the Lebanon are the Anti-Lebanon (between Homs and Zahle) reaching over 7,000 feet and the range of Hermon (between Zahle and the Israel border) which reaches 9,200 feet. Water and cultivation are far less plentiful on these than on the coastal mountains. Farther inland still and to the south of Damascus lie the Leja, a bleak area of igneous rock, and the Jebel Druze, which reaches 5,000–6,000 feet and lies north of the Jordan border.

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(3) *Plains and Plateaux.* Hardly any of the territory of Syria and Lebanon lies less than 700 feet above sea-level and south of Hama almost all the land is over 1,600 feet. The richest agricultural land is on fairly high ground and forms part of a

[1] See W. B. Fisher, *The Middle East; a Physical, Social, and Regional Geography* (London, Methuen, 1950).